

235cm0316

W. H. HEELIS & SON  
SOLICITORS

L. K. BROWNSON  
CLERK TO HAWKSHEAD MAGISTRATES

COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS.

TELEPHONES { AMBLESIDE 3374  
HAWKSHEAD 208

PLANE TREE HOUSE,  
AMBLESIDE,

WESTMORLAND.

(AND AT HAWKSHEAD NEAR AMBLESIDE).

29th October, 1959.

Dear Mr. Price,

/ I enclose herewith copy of a letter received from the Clerk of the Council on which I would like to have your views and possibly you might like to call and discuss it with me one afternoon. I shall be away on Friday and Saturday of this week so perhaps next Tuesday might be a suitable date. I also enclose the plan which was sent with our letter of the 16th.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Price,  
Charlotte Mason Foundation,  
Rydal Road,  
Ambleside.

86, Blackbourn Rd  
Reigate.

acknowledged.  
7.12.59

6<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Dear Mary,

So sorry for the delay, but I  
have very little time mid-week for letters.

I am glad to hear that Joy Barnes 1950  
(for I don't think you can mean Joyce B. 1942 who  
is married) wants to become a fully Q.T.

As soon as provisional Recog: was given  
leaving students were allowed to go (after  
taking the prov: recog: training) to maintain  
schools & had, like other students, to work  
their year. Recog: date 1.9.46. So

the first of the 3 year course who started

the new plans work  
but what if that  
for which the  
concern is the  
future of C.T.'s work.  
There is the cross I have  
with my own  
students.

training that month became, July 1949;  
 teachers who ~~were~~ after the probationary  
 year were Q.T.'s. The first I believe  
 to go then to a State School was  
 Sylvia Grayson who went to a school in  
 Dorecombe & after came to see me. She  
 had full pay & status & remained there  
 until the family went to S. Africa when  
 I think she married. So J. B. should  
 be all right & so should her sister Val

1949 (same year as Grayson I think)

I'm doing all this from memory but you  
 could check from Big B. Bk!

Both these girls are excellent but far too  
 "mummy-minded" & tied to home & a bit  
 old fashioned - consequences. I do encourage  
 the big bold adventure for both of them.

Lots of 1950 went into State Schools.  
 Do hope you are really fit again - also that

237cmc 3/6

Wallon

MR/JG

7th December, 1959

I do not think there is anything specific that can be said about the negotiations with the Westmorland Authority at this stage except that they are going on slowly and it will be some little time yet before they are finished! I do not think Mr. Clarke is going to move an inch with any alterations until the agreement is signed and sealed by the Ministry and I think he and the officials concerned would most certainly question any move of apparent personnel before September, and also if it were done immediately afterwards. I gather these changes are not going to take place this year at any rate!

As far as I can see it seems inevitable that the P.N.E.U. and the P.U.S. should be amalgamated, and possibly Fairfield run by the same Body, but I think that it would be right if the C.N.E., or some similar committee other than the P.N.E.U., should accept responsibility of trusteeship for the property belonging to the Foundation and the rents to be used as needed. Otherwise how can we guarantee that the mortgage will be paid back and all the other obligations met? Mr. Petrie, as you will remember, was very strong about this. It might also mean that the P.N.E.U. Committee, (and I can call it that as that it would be!) might decide to close the agreement with the Westmorland Education Authority and the Ministry before it need do so on the grounds that it was not sufficiently P.N.E.U. Can not the first amalgamation, namely the P.U.S. and the P.N.E.U., take place and the property still remain in the trust by a similar Body? I am afraid personnel of the P.N.E.U. Committee would have full command of everything including the appointment of all the people we would rather not represent us on the new Governing Body of the College, but it is difficult for all this to be expressed.

Much love  
From,



CONFIDENTIAL

MH/JG

22nd January, 1960

V. Knowles, Esq., M.A.,  
The School of Education,  
The University,  
Manchester 13.

Dear Mr Knowles,

I am enclosing a memorandum which Miss Moreton has very kindly put together referring to the use of our Practising School. You may not have time to look at it but at any rate you will know what I want to discuss with Dr Wiseman and Mr Clarke on Tuesday.

The paragraph on experimental work needs defining because I do not intend our children to be used as laboratory specimens, but I am satisfied that Miss Moreton does not mean that at all. I am not pressing the following point of view on Mr Clarke or Dr Wiseman but if you care to mention this to Dr Wiseman please do. This is my own point of view - Miss Moreton has a slightly different point of view. At any rate if the students are, in theory, to study Charlotte Mason they should have some opportunity through their work to see the methods in practice. This will amount to very little as the number of students is increasing and the number of children is certainly decreasing. This is not in any way a means to persuade the students to go into P.N.E.U. schools later. Although I say it, Fairfield is a very nice school and it is remarkable to see those children over...

recapitulating the work they have learnt without a second reading. It is also important that we should recognise that normal children can do a great deal more than we sometimes give them credit for. But there are ways of using a school, which Miss Moreton also recognised are very important, and it does seem a great pity not to use a school which is on the doorstep.

I had of course quite understood we should be allowed to do this but I do see your point that we are more likely to get something if we do not press for it. May I say that Miss Moreton is with me in this desire to use the school and it may be that her ways of expressing it are better than mine under the circumstances.

Yours very sincerely,

Principal.

129cmc216

Trees

MH/TM

18th March, 1960

J.W.F. Morton, Esq.,  
Eden Hay,  
Stanwix,  
Carlisle,  
Cumberland.

Dear Mr Morton,

May I trouble you for a moment about trees? The trees are down which should be down. There is one tall but not broad walnut tree which has suffered ~~slightly~~ from the fall of a big monster of a beech tree. We had Mr Galloway over from Messrs Mould and Bloomer and he advises us that this tree should be taken down as apart from being slightly damaged he has also discovered some decay. *Says it is a danger.*

Two spindley trees, a larch and a fir tree are left by the fence overlooking the housing estate. They look very odd and are not in the least valuable as trees, but Mr Hishman proposes we should take these down too. Mr Galloway agrees that they look exceedingly odd, and they might just as well be taken down. I mentioned these to Mr Petrie the other day when I saw him in Manchester. He agreed, but I said I would ask you, as you have so kindly taken an interest in these trees.

I will assume that it is in order for these trees to come down unless, by any chance, you ring up or write before Monday.

Yours very sincerely,

Principal.





VINCENT KNOWLES, M.A.  
Registrar.

VK/MH

PERSONAL

FROM

THE REGISTRAR,  
THE UNIVERSITY,  
MANCHESTER, 13

Telephone : ARDwick 3333.

April 25th, 1960.

Dear Miss Hardcastle,

As always, I enjoyed my visit to Scale How and the very stimulating meetings on Saturday. I am sure that a visit to Mr. Clarke, following up your admirable letter, will be quite sufficient to allay his anxieties.

I really did enjoy my visit and felt that I was among friends.

I am sending by another post a copy of the certificate we issue to successful students at the College. You might find time to show it to those people who seemed anxious to know exactly what form our certificate took. I did not see Mrs. Harvey to say "Goodbye;" and I should be glad if you could say it for me to her and Miss Molyneux and, of course, anyone else you may wish. I shall look forward with reasonable equanimity to the meeting of the Council in July.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Vincent Knowles*

Miss Mary Hardcastle,  
Principal,  
Charlotte Mason College,  
AMBLESIDE,  
Westmorland.



PERSONAL

241 cmc 316

MR/JG

26th April, 1960

Dear Mr. Knowles,

Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter. I also wanted to write and thank you for all your help and support. I shall always be grateful to you for your aid to an "abandoned woman"! Your speech too on Saturday morning was quite admirable and I think made the whole difference to the beginning of the Conference.

Thank you also for sending me a copy of the certificate which we are putting up on the board in the Barn for all to see.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have had from Mr. Clarke, which seems to be quite satisfactory. I shall certainly make an arrangement to see him before very long.

We shall look forward to seeing you at the Council meeting in July. I should very much like to invite you to stay at the College, or in Mr. Price's guest house, for the Friday night. But may I let you know later on what is possible.

With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,

Principal

V. Knowles, Esq.,  
The Registrar,  
The University,  
Manchester 13.

542cmc3/6

MH/JG

24th February, 1961

L.K. Brownson, Esq.,  
Plane Tree House,  
Ambleside.

Dear Mr. Brownson,

Many thanks for letting me look at this. I had hoped that I should be able to have a look at it and see what prices were offered and accepted especially as far as page 58 is concerned where there are one or two items marked "there should be a reserve price". I was left responsible for seeing that the bookcase was reasonably priced and also the round oil painting in the gilt frame. In fact, it was really my decision as to whether that should be sold or not according to the price offered; so I hope very much that a good price was obtained for that.

I will ring you up shortly to arrange sometime when I can come and see you about the map showing exactly what the extent of the property is.

With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,

Principal

NH/JG

22nd March, 1961

Dear Mrs Walton,

I would like to tell the Council, through you, that although we have had an uncomfortable term with building operations going on we are gradually coming through the difficulties of the transition period. The builders did not begin their work until December, instead of mid-October, which means that we shall not be normal until the end of the summer term. The work of the builders has revealed some interesting things. Mr. Price, the Bursar, photographed in colour one or two parts of the middle of the house in process of demolition. We found an old fireplace and oven which formed part of the wall in the Housekeeper's room and scullery. I had always heard from Miss Kitchen that this was the oldest part of the house, and this has proved to be so. There were immense rock like stones to be removed from the wall. I expect it was a part of the old hut or shelter on the hill which the word Scale How indicates.

The Beehive, which has been converted into a library, is a most delightful building and you having seen it can describe it to the Council. The young Architect has a very good eye for colour, and it pleases us all. The old "Classroom" then "Library" and now general Commonroom in Scale How bereft of books looks very distinguished and drawing room like with its new decoration of light gold and white paper and light olive green ceiling and paint. We are putting the Saskia from the old drawing room over the mantelpiece, and the big round gilt framed picture of Botticelli is where it used to be. The portrait of Charlotte Mason will be in an honoured place in the new dining room.

The first year students are doing some teaching and observation in Fairfield, they are most interested in this. The third year students are at the moment doing their Final Teaching Practice, and the second year students are carrying on the work and responsibility of the college.

It is difficult having to have our meals at Hill Top but everyone is cheerfully accepting the inconvenience and the Easter holidays are upon us; the summer term should be easier. Except for a few cases of flu the health of the students has been very good.

Spring is very early and the banks are covered with wild daffodils, even the rhododendrons are out. I miss our contacts. Please forgive a comparatively short letter but Miss Moreton, Vice-Principal, has been ill and is away; that and the Final Examinations make a busy life.

With all best wishes to you and everyone.



2440mc316

MH/JG

24th November, 1961

Dear Mrs Walton,

By courtesy I have received a copy of the minutes of the P.N.E.U. meeting held on 26th October when I was asked to attend. There are one or two points that I must refer to as they are inaccurate as they stand. For instance, on page 4 there are various references to the L.E.A. which are wrong. The L.E.A. is not really interested in the students working at Fairfield and there can be no possibility that the school should be given a subsidy. The L.E.A. is very much interested in what we do here but it is not concerned to do propaganda for the P.N.E.U. The students have plenty of other opportunities for teaching in Westmorland, Lancashire Division I and in the borough of Barrow-in-Furness. The L.E.A. does however leave me very free and allows me to arrange for this practice and observation of Fairfield children by the students. Naturally, I am very keen that this should be done and the Charlotte Mason Foundation at one time certainly was too, and I thought that the new merged Council would also be interested that the students should gain some real knowledge of the methods of Charlotte Mason by seeing them worked out in the school. It would be a very great pity if the students did not have that opportunity. Although Miss Mumford takes a great deal of trouble that the students should gain as much as possible from this practice it is also an advantage to her to have their help at the week-ends and, less so perhaps during the week; in fact it is a fair example of give and take.

I felt sure that you were minuted wrongly, and you have confirmed this, about the closing of Fairfield Senior School. The truth is that we had been told at the Full Inspection of the College by H.M. Inspectors that the College staff could not be asked to teach in the school as well as the College. This was a very strong recommendation which I had to follow. Consequently we realised that Fairfield Senior School could not continue, as the additional money required for school salaries would be quite impossible to meet. It was that decision which made it necessary to close the Senior School. After that it was decided to use the senior boarding houses for student accommodation.

May I make one more comment? It is true that there are various expenses due to the 'take-over' which come this year, but I would like to remind the Council that the debts referred to do not belong to the Charlotte Mason Foundation alone.

Yours sincerely,

Principal